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TRD Warns New Mexicans Against Phishing Scheme Involving W-2s

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department is issuing an alert to payroll and human resources professionals to be aware of an emerging phishing email scheme that appear to be from company executives and requests personal information of employees.

This scheme effect payroll and human resources offices that mistakenly email payroll data including Forms W-2 that contain Social Security numbers and other personally identifiable information to cybercriminals posing as company executives.

“Please be [on](#) alert for phony emails that request sensitive information like social security numbers,” said Demesia Padilla Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. “These fraudsters are trying to obtain personal information to steal tax refunds, make sure that information is protected.”

This phishing variation is known as a “spoofing” email. It will contain, for example, the actual name of the company chief executive officer. In this variation, the “CEO” sends an email to a company payroll office employee and requests a list of employees and information including SSNs.

The following are some of the details contained in the e-mails:

- Kindly send me the individual 2015 W-2 (PDF) and earnings summary of all W-2 of our company staff for a quick review.
- Can you send me the updated list of employees with full details (Name, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, Home Address, Salary).
- I want you to send me the list of W-2 copy of employees wage and tax statement for 2015, I need them in PDF file type, you can send it as an attachment. Kindly prepare the lists and email them to me asap.

If you believe that you have received a “spoofing” email or that you may be a victim of such a scam, please call the call the 24 hour Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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